



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-10INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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O R 150745Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1440

UNCLAS KABUL 1167

USINFO

FOR: IBS, IPS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: NA

SUBJ: ITEM FOR BROADCAST

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY

Date 5/21/90

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY

() EXCISE () DECLASSIFY

() DENY () DELETE

() This report is info.

() DOWNGRADE IS to () B or () C, OR

1. FOLLOWING ITEM INTENDED FOR USE IN VOA BREAKFAST SHOW.

2. FOLLOWING HIS UNANIMOUS ELECTION YESTERDAY BY THE AFGHAN LOYA JIRGAH (NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY), MOHAMMED DAUD WAS SWORN IN TODAY AS THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN UNDER THE NATION'S NEW CONSTITUTION. THE LOYA JIRGAH RATIFIED THE CONSTITUTION TWO DAYS AGO AFTER SOME TWO WEEKS' INTENSIVE REVIEW OF A DRAFT.

THE BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE ACTIONS, THE LOYA JIRGAH, IS THE LATEST MANIFESTATION OF A TRADITION WHICH EXTENDS TWO AND ONE-HALF CENTURIES BACK INTO AFGHAN HISTORY. SUCH ASSEMBLIES OF NOTABLES FROM THROUGHOUT THE NATION HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN CALLED AT TIMES OF DECISION ON MATTERS OF GREAT NATIONAL IMPORTANCE. IN MODERN AFGHAN HISTORY THE MOST RECENT PREDECESSORS OF THE PRESENT ASSEMBLY WERE THE LOYA JIRGAHS WHICH MET IN 1964 AND 1955. THE 1964 LOYA JIRGAH CONSIDERED A NATIONAL

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CONSTITUTION UNDER THE MONARCHY OF THE TIME, WHILE THAT OF

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1955 DEALT WITH THE COUNTRY'S RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN.

THE PRESENT LOYA JIRGAH, CONSISTING OF SOME 400 AFGHAN NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND TRIBAL LEADERS, WAS SUMMONED TO RATIFY A CONSTITUTION, ELECT A PRESIDENT AND CONSIDER MATTERS OF NATIONAL POLICY UNDER THE REPUBLICAN REGIME WHICH TOOK POWER IN 1973.

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